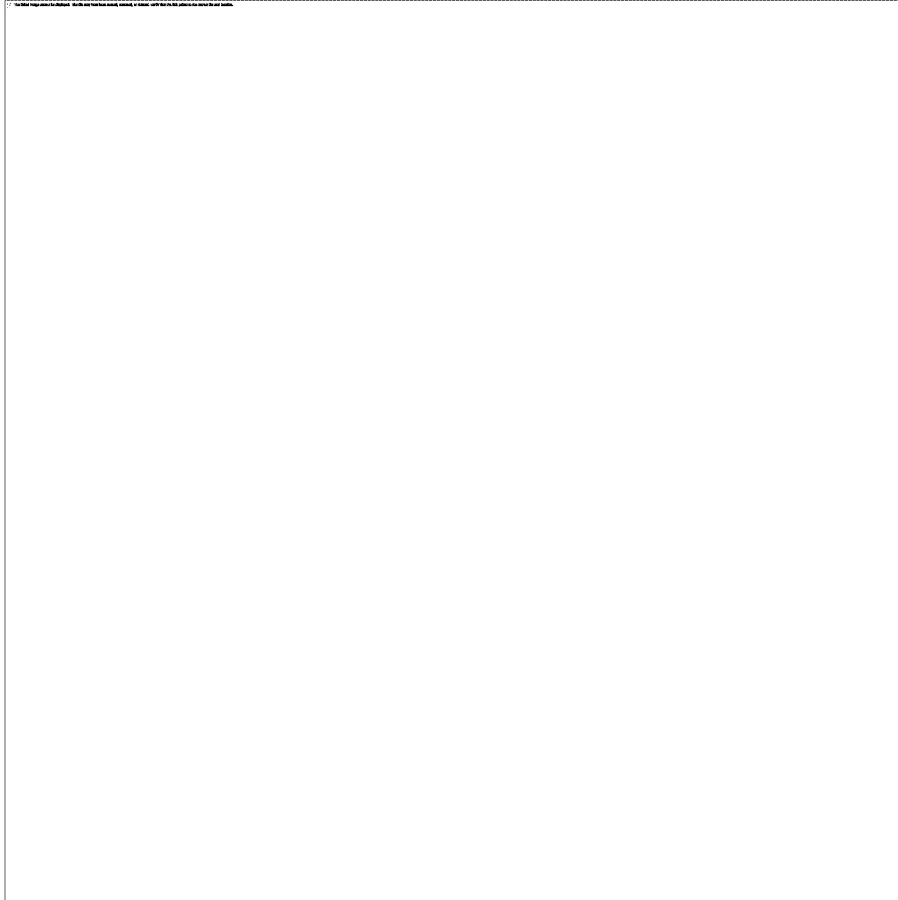


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**NEWS UPDATE**

**March 8, 2019**

## ***Top Stories***

### ***Small Refinery Exemption Litigation***

## **EPA Changed Course on Small-Refinery Waivers Without Public Input**

By Todd Neeley, DTN Staff Reporter • • Posted March 8, 2019

The EPA broke away from Renewable Fuel Standard requirements for granting small-refinery waivers starting in May 2017 and continued to deny a congressional order regarding which refiners qualify, according to a 97-page brief filed in a federal court in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The brief was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by attorneys on behalf

of the Advanced Biofuels Association. The group sued the EPA in response to it granting 48 small-refinery waivers in 2016 and 2017. [ read more ... ]

## **EPA changed rules to help profitable refiners get biofuel waivers: lawsuit | Reuters**

By Jarrett Renshaw, Reuters • • Posted March 8, 2019

U.S. environmental regulators quietly changed the way they assess applications from refineries for waivers from the nation's biofuels law, making it possible for highly profitable plants to secure lucrative exemptions, according to court documents filed by a biofuels trade group on Thursday. The new documents, part of a lawsuit that began last year, could provide the most complete explanation to date of how the Environmental Protection Agency vastly expanded the number of small refinery hardship biofuel waivers under former Administrator Scott Pruitt, including by granting exemptions to oil majors Exxon Mobil and Chevron. [ read more ... ]

### ***Proposed RIN Reform***

## **Exclusive: EPA aims to curb biofuel credit market speculation via five-pillared draft rule**

By Humeyra Pamuk, Reuters • • Posted March 8, 2019

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to curb speculation in the biofuel credit market will include five measures aimed at preventing hoarding of the credits and improving monitoring to identify potential market manipulation, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters. The proposed measures, sent to the White House for review on Monday, include requiring quarterly, instead of annual, retirement or sales of the credits – called Renewable Identification Numbers, or RINs – and blocking certain non-obligated parties from purchasing RINs. [ read more ... ]

### ***Proposed SAFE Rule***

## **White House to automakers: It's Trump or Calif. on emissions**

By Ryan Beene, Bloomberg • • Posted March 8, 2019

The White House has issued an us-versus-them challenge to carmakers: back an administration plan to roll back fuel-economy standards or risk President Donald Trump's wrath by siding with California's stringent emissions requirements. That message was delivered during a tense conference call between Trump administration officials and auto executives in late February, according to five people familiar with the call who spoke on the condition they not be identified discussing the private conversation. [ read more ... ]

## **White House pressures automakers on fuel rules, blocking Calif. – sources**

By David Shepardson, Reuters • • Posted March 8, 2019

The White House is pressuring automakers to back its effort to roll back Obama-era fuel economy standards and bar California from setting its own emissions standards or requiring electric vehicles, sources with direct knowledge of the talks said Wednesday. Last Friday, White House officials met with senior lobbyists from General Motors Co, Ford Motor Co and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV and urged them to back the Trump administration's effort. [ read more ... ]

## **Policy & Politics**

### **Here's why Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kevin de León are teaming up on climate change**

By Sammy Roth, Los Angeles Times • • Posted March 8, 2019

"Coming from Portugal, as a kid my idea of him was the Hummer driver in 'The Terminator,'" Bento said. "It's been a phenomenal surprise and inspiration to me how much he's taken this as a big cause of his life now." Schwarzenegger and De León are launching an initiative with environmental activists and researchers at USC and UCLA to study how local governments can speed the adoption of cleaner transportation options and to promote more aggressive action at the state level. Reducing dependence on oil for transportation, they say, would benefit the climate and reduce lung-damaging air pollution in disadvantaged communities. [ [read more ...](#) ]

### **China's Shopping List in America Has These Farm Goods at the Top**

By Bloomberg • • Posted March 8, 2019

President Donald Trump says he's asked China to immediately remove all tariffs on U.S. agricultural products in what could be a huge blessing for American farmers. But how will global trade flows change in the event of a deal? The most obvious impact will be on Brazil and Argentina, which were among the biggest winners of the trade war, as their soybeans in China displaced the U.S. Should the Asian nation dump its 25 percent retaliatory tariffs on soy — America's biggest agricultural export to China before the trade war — their big advantage will fade. [ [read more ...](#) ]

### **Study: Ethanol push is a problem for butterflies**

Marc Heller, E&E News reporter • • Posted March 8, 2019

Nearly one-fifth of the Upper Midwest's milkweed plants — the main staple in the diet of monarch butterflies — were lost from 2008 to 2016 as farmers converted land to crops for ethanol, the National Wildlife Federation said today. In a report on environmental impacts of the federal renewable fuel standard, the NWF pointed to loss of milkweed as one of the impacts of ethanol's rapid growth. Around 223 million milkweed stems have been lost on the butterflies' migration route, and 17 percent in the Upper Midwest, the NWF said. [ [read more ...](#) ]

### **Climate change pervades Congress after years of quiet**

Mark K. Matthews, E&E News reporter • • Posted March 8, 2019

All of a sudden, it's gotten really hard to escape climate change. Not the problem itself — that threat has been looming for a while now. But discussions about global warming have hit a fever pitch in recent months, often overwhelming other issues in Congress, on television and on the campaign trail. How long it will last is anyone's guess, but several lawmakers and activists said the buzz has reached a level unmatched since congressional Democrats tried to pass cap-and-trade legislation 10 years ago. [ [read more ...](#) ]

### **Federal agencies release framework for advancing the bioeconomy**

By USDA • • Posted March 8, 2019

The federal Biomass Research and Development (BR&D) Board unveiled a multi-agency strategy March 5 to accelerate innovative technologies that harness the nation's biomass resources for affordable biofuels, bioproducts, and biopower. The Bioeconomy Initiative: Implementation Framework was developed by the B&RD Board—an interagency collaborative which is co-chaired by

the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy—to guide such efforts. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Study lays out plan for super-fast charging network

Peter Behr, E&E News reporter • • Posted March 8, 2019

To put the next generation of electric vehicles on equal footing with gasoline-power competition, their sticker prices must align, a convergence that EV optimists believe will happen before the end of the next decade. And the recharge of an EV's battery may have to match the five minutes that motorists today typically spend filling up at highway service stops, a new analysis of the electric vehicle outlook concludes. [ [read more ...](#) ]

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Governors' Biofuels Coalition  
Governors' Coalition  
P.O. Box 94922  
Lincoln, NE 68509

